Security risk due to traffic of foreign vessels

105. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that going by a study by the Tata Energy Research Institute (TERI), increasing traffic of foreign vessels near the offshore oilfields and POL handling ports could be a security risk;

(b) whether the study has pointed out that some of the ports along the East and West coast, which handle 80% of the POL products, are declared "high risk zones"; and

(c) if so, Government's views in this regard and the action being taken to ensure security of these sensitive areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI DILIP KUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Implementation of Tonnage Tax Scheme

106. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have started implementing Tonnage Tax Scheme in place of the existing Corporate Tax Scheme on the profits of the shipping industy;

(b) what are the recommendations made by the Rakesh Mohan Committee in this regard;

(c) whether any time-frame has been fixed by Government to implement the Tonnage Tax Scheme;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI DILIP KUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI):(a) A Group comprising representatives of the Ministry of Shipping, Indian National Shipowners' Association and the Central Board of Direct Taxes has been constituted to finalise the modalities of the tonnage tax system for the shipping industry.